

In re Hurley,
Del. Supr., 583 A.2d 660 (1990)

Disciplinary Rules: DLRPC 1.1, 1.3

Nature of Case:

Attorney was asked to show cause why he should not be disciplined after disregarding the rulings of the Supreme Court regarding his client's case. In particular, attorney filed a motion to reargue which the Court found to be legally insufficient, disrespectful and unprofessional. Attorney also attempted to file additional papers after the Court ruled that no more papers relating to the motion would be accepted. Attorney claimed that his actions stemmed from his obligations to his client under DLRPC 1.1 and 1.3, denied any intent to disregard the Court's orders, and denied that his conduct was disrespectful or unprofessional.

Action Taken by the Court:

The Court held the attorney in contempt and fined him \$500.00. The Court ruled that the attorney's obligation to his client did not outweigh his obligation to the Court itself. The attorney was also directed to attend continuing legal education classes in appellate practice and procedure, and was warned of further disciplinary action for any future misconduct.